

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 202  
By Goins

A RESOLUTION to extend our heartiest congratulations to Aaron Ausmus, University of Tennessee track and field star, on winning the shot put event at the NCAA National Indoor Track and Field Championships and his many other accomplishments.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize our star athletes who work hard and achieve success, bringing national attention and recognition to the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, despite strong competition, University of Tennessee junior track and field sensation Aaron Ausmus recently put on a dazzling performance by winning the shot put event at the NCAA Track and Field Championships, at Indianapolis; and

WHEREAS, the junior from LaFollette captured the Vols first track and field national title with a career best throw of 62 feet, 4-1/2 inches; and

WHEREAS, five of his six throws went for 60 feet or better, including two that went for at least 62 feet; and

WHEREAS, he personally accounted for 10 of Tennessee's 16 total points as the Vols finished in a three-way tie for 10th place; and

WHEREAS, Aaron also finished runner-up to the number one athlete in the country, with a then personal best throw of 62 ft. 1-1/4 inches, at the Southeastern Conference Tournament; and

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WHEREAS, his 1997 SEC Tournament shot put mark placed him fourth on the list of all-time school performers. He also finished sixth in the 55-pound division with a throw of 62 ft. 8 inches, a career best at that tournament; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished graduate of Campbell County High School, Aaron won the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class AAA state championships in the shot put and discus, was the AAU Junior Olympics shot put champion and placed fifth at the Junior Olympics in the discus competition before entering UT as a freshman walk-on in the fall of 1995; and

WHEREAS, he had an immediate impact on the team his first season with a third-place finish in the shot put at the indoor SEC championships with a throw of 56 ft. 8 inches, and was selected the squad's Most Valuable Freshman; and

WHEREAS, last season, he recovered from a knee injury to help the Volunteers finish second in the Southeastern Conference Championship, by placing fourth in the shot put, fifth in the discus, and ninth in the hammer throw at the SEC meet; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's coaches were so impressed by his performance that they honored him with the prestigious "Iron Man Award", an honor usually bestowed upon upper-classmen; and

WHEREAS, other highlights from his exceptional 1997 season include his memorable performance at the Kentucky Invitational Tournament: he finished first in the 35-pound weight throw, recording an excellent 59 ft. 6-1/4 inches and finished second in the shot put, with a 61 ft. 2-1/4 inch throw, a personal best; and

WHEREAS, at 6-foot-2 and 265 pounds, he can bench press an incredible 430 pounds and squat press over 600 pounds; and

WHEREAS, this exemplary athlete is now fifth on UT's all-time shot put list; and

WHEREAS, University of Tennessee Coach Bill Webb has paid tribute to Aaron's excellence both as a person and as an athlete by commenting: "He came in here unheralded, and worked his way up. He can score in three events outdoors and there's not many athletes who can do that. He's worked as hard as anybody I've ever had. He's one of the strongest athletes at the University of Tennessee."; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and congratulate one of the nations finest young athletes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Aaron Ausmus on winning the NCAA National Track and Field Championship shot put event and his numerous other accomplishments and wish him well in what we are confident will be a bright future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.